

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for the potentiation of an immune response to an infectious  
2       disease after the discontinuation of treatment for the infection or prior to vaccination,  
3       comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising IL-2 in an amount effective to  
4       maintain immune enhancement without eliciting toxicity of Grade 1 or higher as defined by  
      the World Health Organization.

                  2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the subject has Human  
      Immunodeficiency Virus.

                  3.       The method of claim 2, wherein the subject has undetectable plasma  
      viral RNA.

                  4.       The method of claim 3, wherein the subject has discontinued HAART.

                  5.       The method of claim 1, wherein the subject has HCV.

                  6.       The method of claim 5, wherein the subject has undetectable plasma  
      viral RNA levels.

                  7.       The method of claim 6, wherein the subject has discontinued IFN- $\alpha$   
      therapy or combination IFN- $\alpha$  and ribavirin therapy.

                  8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of IL-2 administered is  
      about 100,000 to about 500,000 IU/m<sup>2</sup> body surface/day.

1                   9.     The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is immune reconstituted.

1                   10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-2 composition further comprises  
2 a pharmaceutical carrier.

1                   11.    A method for treatment of hepatitis C virus comprising administering to  
2 a subject a composition comprising IL-2 in an amount effective to maintain immune  
3 enhancement without eliciting toxicity of Grade 1 or higher as defined by the World Health  
4 Organization.

                  12.    The method of claim 11, wherein the IL-2 is administered in addition to  
IFN- $\alpha$  and ribavirin antiviral therapy.

09/06/95 10:03:00